

**REMARKS**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the courteous and helpful interview of April 28, 2003, during which the claims of this application and the prior art were discussed.

Claims 1-3 have been allowed.

Claims 4 and 7 have been amended herein to clarify the present invention.

Independent Claim 4, as now amended, is to an internal component assembly having an internal component for an electronic apparatus, and a fixation member stationary on the internal component. An erect plate continuously extends from the fixation member so as to stand on an outer surface of the internal component, and a shock absorbing member adhered by an adhesive to front and back sides of the erect plate.

Independent Claim 7, as now amended, is to a shock absorbing apparatus having a fixation member stationary on an internal component designed to be installed in an electronic apparatus, an erect plate continuously extending from the fixation member so as to stand on an outer surface of the internal component, and a shock absorbing member adhered by an adhesive to front and back sides of the erect plate.

In both Claims 4 and 7, a shock absorbing member is adhered by an adhesive to front and back sides of the erect plate of the fixation member. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the cited reference.

U.S. Serial No. **09/695,968**

Claims 4-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 11177261. Claim 4 is an independent claim, with claims 5 and 6 dependent thereon, while Claim 7 is an independent claim with Claims 8 and 9 dependent thereon. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections of Claims 4-9 are requested on the basis of the present amendments to claims 4 and 7 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that a shock absorbing member 4,5 of JP '261 is adhered on front and back sides of an erect plate. Applicant cannot find support in the reference for this allegation. While shock absorber 4 may be disposed between the upper side of plate 2 and cover member 24, and shock absorber 5 may be disposed between the lower side of plate 2 and primary member 22, the shock absorbers are not "adhered" on front and back sides of an erect plate such as 29, and certainly not adhered by an adhesive to front and back sides of an erect plate as in the present claims.

As Applicants have previously mentioned, with the shock absorbers adhered to front and back sides of the erect plate, the shock absorbing member stays on the erect plate even when the entire internal component assembly is taken out of the electronic apparatus or even when the shock absorbing apparatus is removed from the internal component. This facilitates handling of the internal component assembly or the shock absorbing apparatus. Also, in the present system, the shock absorbing member would not be lost or displaced even when the entire internal component assembly is taken out of the electronic apparatus or even when the shock absorbing apparatus is

removed from the internal component, since the shock absorbing members are adhered by an adhesive and not separable from the erect plate.

The term “adhered on” as used in the specification and claims, is clearly intended to mean adhered by an adhesive. For example, a conventional shock absorbing member is described in the column of “Description of the Prior art” on pages 1 and 2 of the specification. It is stated that the shock absorbing member is adhered directly on the wall... as shown on the attachment. It continues that “to remove the old shock absorbing member from the wall... and to restore the clean surface of the wall... by removing an adhesive...”. Moreover, this intention can be reinforced by the language “eliminate a troublesome operation including wiping an adhesive remaining on the surface of the enclosure” in the column of “SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION” on page 4, at line 16 of the present specification. Because of use of an adhesive, the shock absorbing member can be replaced “without unsticking” the elastic leaves from the erect plate, as also mentioned at page 12, lines 4 and 5 of the present specification.

In view of the present amendments to Claims 4 and 7, and the above remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 4-9 are patentable, in addition to allowed Claims 1-3. Early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

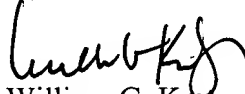
U.S. Serial No. 09/695,968

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



William G. Kratz, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/nrp

Atty. Docket No. 001360  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE